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The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Torture of CIA Agents Disclosed

**By Jack Anderson
and Les Whitten**

CIA officials, whose lips have been sealed for two decades, are now beginning to talk about the clandestine operations of the Cold War.

They have told us deadly grim tales of terrible torture, violent death, low treachery and high courage. In the 1950s, dozens of CIA infiltrators were slipped behind the iron curtain. Rarely did anyone make it back alive.

Invariably, they were caught and executed. But first, they were subjected to the most skillful torture the human mind has devised. Only after they were more dead than alive, the last fragment of information extracted from them, were they allowed to die, our sources report.

We got the first inkling of this from former Defense Secretary Clark Clifford, who once headed the civilian advisory board that watches over the CIA. He told us that undercover men had been caught and subjected to cruel torture. He praised these unsung heroes whose deeds, he said, surpass the most valorous in our history.

From other sources, we have now learned more about these daring infiltrators, some of them aliens, others Americans of East European ancestry. Some were parachuted behind the iron curtain; others slipped ashore from boats; some simply sneaked across the Iranian border on foot.

One agent, known inside the CIA as "Tough Andy," lasted two years, keeping one step ahead of the KGB, the Soviet secret police. But the pilot who was supposed to pick him up at a secret landing strip, "got

chicken" at the last minute, a source recalled. This was the last that was heard of Tough Andy.

In the mid-1950s, President Eisenhower became discouraged over the loss of life and disbanded the infiltration program. But not long afterwards, the missions were revived under the code names "AER-EADY" for the Soviet Union and "OKWHIPPER" for the Soviet bloc.

Using the Army as a cover, the CIA scoured military records to find servicemen and veterans who could speak Russian and other East European tongues. Those who could be recruited were given "hot training" in infiltration and espionage.

In addition to language experts, the CIA also keeps files on other contract workers with unusual professions. If a belly dancer or crop duster should be needed for a special assignment, the CIA can usually find a trusted operative on its lists. Our sources say that the locksmith's name provided to the Watergate break-in team by the CIA must have come from these lists.

Two key files are used by the CIA. One is the enormous "RI" (Records Integration) file, in which millions of names are meticulously cross-indexed. Almost every name the CIA has ever come across, innocent or suspicious, can be found in the "RI."

A more refined file, once called the "Staff D" index and more recently the "Green List," contains the names picked up from intercepted phone calls, opened mail, wiretaps and other surveillance activities.

In sworn testimony, CIA chief

William Colby has said these files are vital to intelligence work, but he agreed some material obviously gets into the files by "mistake."

Footnote: There are light moments at the vast, somber CIA complex at Langley, Va. A high CIA official was in charge of a project so secret that its code name, "LADLE," was known to only a few select agents. When the official was transferred, his employees threw a party for him and presented him with a silver soup ladle as a going-away present.

Headlines and Footnotes—Argentina purchased two World War II destroyers, the Collett and Mansfield, from the United States last year for the spare parts. The Collett turned out to be in better shape, however, than many ships in the Argentine fleet. Now Argentine offi-

cials are asking permission from the United States to induct the Collett into their fleet and to dismantle one of their own ships for spare parts . . . Veteran journalist Dan Kurzman's new book, "The Race for Rome," reopens the controversy over whether Pope Pius XII was soft on the Nazis. Kurzman's findings: the Pope did little to keep Roman Jews from the Nazi gas ovens. Those who were saved can thank lower-level Catholics, Italian officials and even some Nazi bureaucrats . . .

A confidential government report on shale oil, which could solve the nation's energy needs, warns that production of the rock-bound fuel holds "hazard potentials for bodily injury and for illness and premature death" . . .

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